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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Memorandum

TO Robert L. Keuch
Deputy Special Counsel
to the Attorney General
Martin Luther King Assassination

DATE: May 24, 1977
CRN:RHHoevet:pck
5-41-804

FROM Ronald H. Hoevet
Trial Attorney
Tax Division

SUBJECT: Martin Luther King Assassination

On April 7, 1977, James Travis Buckley, J.B. Stoner and I met in the United States Attorney's office in Jackson, Mississippi, to complete discovery and work out stipulations in United States v. James Travis Buckley, Criminal No. J76-54(N). On May 14, 1977, Buckley, an attorney, was convicted on five counts of failing to file income tax returns for 1970 through 1974 and three counts of tax evasion for 1970, 1973 and 1974.

During the conversation on April 7, 1977, J.B. Stoner mentioned that he had recently received his Federal Bureau of Investigation file covering 1483 pages under the Freedom of Information Act. He stated that the file reveals that the Federal Bureau of Investigation had bugged his automobile and his telephone. He mentioned that the F.B.I. had treated him like Martin Luther King. Stoner went on to say that in 1957 or 1958, he had been approached by the head of an Alabama Klavern of the Klu Klux Klan. Stoner said that everyone knew that this man was an F.B.I. agent. Stoner said that this individual offered him $25,000 to hire a rifleman to kill Martin Luther King. He remarked to me that he did not mind the F.B.I. killing an individual like Martin Luther King but he did resent their attempt and the attempt of the House Committee to pin the murder on a scapegoat, James Earl Ray. (J.B. Stoner had represented James Earl Ray on his appeal).

J.B. Stoner is one of the leading white supremacists and anti-Semites in the nation. He is the president of the National States' Rights Party and edits a recist newsletter, Thunderbolt, in Marietta, Georgia. Special Agent William Jack Sykes of Jackson, Mississippi, was also present when Stoner made these comments.

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ENCLOSURE